

REMARKS

Claim 9 has been amended to delete the phrase "attached gingiva." Minor amendments have also been made to claims 7, 9, and 12. The word "construct" has been added to claim 7 and the word "and" has been replaced with "or" in claims 9 and 12. Applicants acknowledge that these amendments are being made after final rejection and that entry of amendments after final are at the Examiner's discretion. They were not presented earlier because such were not necessary to complete response to the last Official Action. Further the amendments are responsive to the Examiner's comments in the present Official Action, and they put the claims in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal, and they do not raise any new issues or require further search. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner exercise his discretion in favor of entry of the amendments under these circumstances.

The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Landsberg et al. Claim 9 has been amended to delete the phrase "attached gingiva" to overcome the Examiner's rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing amendments and remarks are believed to fully respond to the Examiner's rejections. The claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims, and passage of the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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